

For Immediate Release: January 2, 2016

Animal Services Seizes 66 Dogs from Rockville Home

Search of Home Leads to Numerous Violations of County Code, Animal Cruelty



Rockville, MD – The Montgomery County Police Department, Animal Service Division (ASD) seized sixty-six dogs from a Rockville home on Friday, January 1st. A search warrant was executed at approximately 6:30 p.m. with the search and seizure process lasting throughout the night.

The investigation began the previous evening when animal services officers visited the home in response to a dog bite case. While speaking to the homeowner outside, the officer made several observations of the condition of the home and property, suspecting possession of a large quantity of animals. The homeowner was uncooperative in providing the officers with the information they requested including an inspection of the premises to locate the dog involved in the original bite case.

The seized dogs – of varying size, age, and breed – were also in varying medical and behavioral condition; some required immediate medical care. Several staff members from ASD, including the Medical Director were on-hand to remove the dogs and conduct a brief assessment of each one. More thorough examinations will be necessary to have a better determination of each animal's state of health.

An investigation is pending. The lead investigator for the case noted that, "the case is complex due to its size," but credited, "excellent teamwork by all the staff involved...we made a difference today."

The dogs are currently being cared for by the Animal Services Division.

The ASD Field Services Unit, comprised of 16 full-time Field Services Officers and one Cruelty Investigator, investigated over 640 complaints of animal cruelty in 2015. To report animal cruelty and neglect 24 hours a day, seven days a week, call 301.279.8000.

About the Department of Police, Animal Services Division:

The Department of Police, Animal Services Division, provides high-standard sheltering and care to the homeless, abused, and neglected animals in our community and ensures the safety and welfare of the county's citizens. We operate the County's only open-admissions, municipal shelter. Through adoptions, education, outreach, and more, the Animal Services Division serves as a critical community resource to promote and advocate for responsible pet care. Animal Services Officers are on duty seven days a week to investigate citizen complaints and respond to animal emergencies 24 hours a day. For more information, visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/asd

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